

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, due to operational difficulties of the flight I intended to take, I was unable to be present for the vote taken on Wednesday, November 12. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote number 516, regarding H.R. 4194.

HONORING ROBERT W. BOGLE

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend, Bob W. Bogle, as he receives the Outstanding Community Leader Award from the Friends of Labor Committee of Laborers' Local 332. Bob is the chairman, president, and CEO of The Philadelphia Tribune.

Bob is chairman of the Hospitals and Higher Education Facilities Authority of Philadelphia, and also serves as the Mayor of Philadelphia's appointee on the Independence Blue Cross Board. Bob is also chairman of the Council of Trustees at Cheyney University, his alma mater, and serves on a number of boards, including the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce and the Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau. Additionally, he was appointed by President George W. Bush to serve as member of the National Museum of African American History and Culture Commission.

The Philadelphia Tribune is America's oldest and Greater Philadelphia's largest audited paper primarily serving the African-American community. Before assuming his present position, Bob held other high-level positions at the newspaper, including director of advertising, director of marketing, and executive vice president. The magazine has been honored at least five times by the National Newspaper Publisher's Association, a trade association of 205 Black-owned newspapers across the country.

I invite you and all of my colleagues to join me in commemorating my friend Bob's accomplishment and his dedication to the city of Philadelphia, the birthplace of America.

CONGRATULATING THE FESTUS
HIGH SCHOOL BOYS CROSS
COUNTRY TEAM**HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Festus High School Boys Cross Country Team for winning the Class 3 Missouri State Championship.

I ask that you join me in recognizing the Festus Tigers for a job well done.

SPEECH BY ROBERT GHAZOOOL

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share a speech given by one of my constituents, Robert Ghazool of Huntington, NY, when he introduced me during my visit to St. Peter's Syriac Orthodox Church. It was a pleasure working with Mr. Ghazool in setting up my visit to the church.

"The persecution of Christians and other religious minorities in the Middle East is an affront to human rights and cannot be allowed to endure. We must stand with this community and stand up against this violence".

This quote was sent to me by Congressman Israel and read during our rally for our brethren in front of the United Nations.

Congressman, as in the rally in front of the United Nations, our church has been at the center of a movement that has taken on life both here and abroad. Genocide is occurring and many Christians of the world can no longer be on the sidelines of history and see it happen. As we all know this genocide did not begin in June and July as the ISIS thugs poured in from neighboring Syria. This was the culmination, a last straw if you will, in what has been happening to the Christians in Iraq since 2003. For the sake of time, instead of giving you an exact timeline here is an overview of what our brethren have endured.

They have endured over 60 church bombings, countless kidnappings and executions, our priests being killed, the massacre of the church of Sayidat Al Najat, the ethnic cleansing in Dora, which was once called the Vatican of Baghdad for the amount of churches and Christians that lived there, our Archbishops being killed in Iraq and taken hostage in Syria. Due to all this most of the Christians of Iraq have fled the persecution they endured, and what was once a population of 1.5 million is now estimated to be 500,000.

In the last few years, the perils of the Christians of Iraq are now being faced by our brethren in Syria. The Christians of the Middle East are now in a precarious situation of failed nation states that cannot or will not come to the aid of the minorities being persecuted, democratic elections being held only to see Islamists coming into power as we saw with Hamas in Gaza and the Islamic Brotherhood in Egypt. The void left by lack of strong central governments has unfortunately been filled by groups like Al-Qaeda, Al-Nusra, ISIS, and Khorasan just to name a few.

Now we come to the events that have brought us here today. ISIS came in with their black flag of hate and ignorance into Mosul and the Nineveh plains in late June. The ultimatum was clear—leave, convert or the only thing left for you is death by the sword. The conclusion for ISIS was simple; these people would simply lie over and convert to their brand of Satanic Islam. This would show the world how weak Christianity is and how powerful the Islamic State has become. I am so proud to tell you how wrong they were.

Even after the thugs of ISIS branded the homes of the Christians with the Arabic N which means Nazarene, none converted and after vicious threats and attacks and with minutes numbered they fled north to first the Nineveh Plains and then farther north with nothing more than the clothes on their

back. Everything was confiscated, deeds to their houses taken, IDs burnt, anything of value even down to a mere wedding band taken. Some walked countless miles when their cars were taken on the border of Mosul, others were beaten and unfortunately many were killed.

All of them no matter what the circumstance said with one voice NO. NO, we will not convert, no we will not pay a Jizya, and if you kill us, we will be with a full heart knowing that we died for our Lord and Savior. You see my brethren these last souls were and are the bravest of our brave. They were the ones that no matter what the circumstance stayed to preserve our heritage, our language, our culture, and my God probably the last chance of civility in a land that frankly has little of it. Our Savior told us to leave everything and follow him. Our brethren in Nineveh have reminded us all what it is to be a true Christian. They are the modern day bearers of the cross, like our forefathers who themselves carried the cross as in 1890 Dierbekkar and the Christian Genocide of 1915. We cannot let their sacrifice go in vain. For if we do, we lose the voice of moderation that the Christians have always had in that region. We lose the teachers that taught literacy to the people that came after us. We lose a part of Judea-Christian History that once lost will be difficult to find once again. Today for the first time in over 1600 years no Christians are in Mosul. The sounds of the church bells are replaced by the sounds of war, our crosses, statues and signs of peace and love in the 45 Church facilities taken over by ISIS, now replaced by their black flag of hate, death and destruction. We are the indigenous people of that land and we deserve and want better.

Congressman Israel you have been a leader in Congress when it comes to issues of human rights and religious equality. You were influential in the response and letters about Darfur. You sit on the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, and were quick to stand with us and acknowledge what was transpiring to the minorities of Iraq and Syria as was evident in your statement that was read in front of the UN. You have visited Iraq and Afghanistan nine times which puts you in a unique position to be our voice in Congress. Our people are in harm's way, they have endured more than any people should and we need your help.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the great sacrifice that our Armed Forces are enduring to bring the fight to ISIS. Their heroism makes us all proud to be Americans. Our thoughts and prayers are with them and for the families of the four American and British citizens that have been beheaded by these cowardice vultures.

Without further ado, on behalf of Reverend FR. Gabriel Adde, the board of trustees, and the congregation of St. Peter's Church please help me in welcoming the Honorable Congressman Steve Israel.

RECOGNIZING THE DE LA SALLE
HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PRO-
GRAM**HON. GEORGE MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the outstanding record of a remarkable high school football program and Mr. Bob Ladouceur, the coach who, for 34 years, brought out the very best in his players both on and off the field. Under